

Wanderers look set for third round as...

EGHAM 'MINNOWS' LOOK FOR MIRACLE!

Oxford game on Monday

OXFORD CITY, currently without a victory this season, have re-arranged their Isthmian League games with Wycombe Wanderers to Monday due to a testimonial match between Wolves and Stoke at Oxford United on Tuesday.

Former Marlow manager John Fisher, now boss, at the White House ground, lost many of his players from last season and has introduced several younger players into his side, from local football.

But so far, City have managed only four draws this term which included a 0-0 stalemate at Bishop's Stortford. Their other points have come against Dulwich Hamlet, Leytonstone and Ilford. But between those results they have been hammered 6-1 by Walthamstow, 5-1 by Enfield and 5-0 by Hitchin.

Bobby Marcham, with Wycombe last season, is included in their squad to meet Wycombe along with experienced campaigners Jack Woodley and Eric Metcalf.

And yet matches of this kind can spell nothing but danger to the senior side. So many times, from the football league to the Wycombe Combination, we have seen "the Big Boys" come unstuck against the "minnows".

On paper Wanderers should walk it. Their superior class against a side who are in 12th place in the Spartan League should see them through with ease. But Egham have everything to gain and very little to lose. On their small home ground they could cause Wycombe's off form attack some problems.

It happened at Aveley in the Amateur Cup first round last year when Wanderers found themselves two goals down after half an hour and were held to a replay. But the odds against a repeat like that at Egham must be at least a couple of hundred to one.

PAUL 50-50

There are only two injury worries. Paul Birdseye is rated as only 50-50 with ankle trouble while Dave Bullock has not yet recovered from an injury in Sunday football. Larry Pritchard and John Delaney could be playing their second game in two days if they are selected for the Amateur inter-

ISTHMIAN League champions Wycombe Wanderers travel to little Egham Town tomorrow (Saturday) with a seemingly simple task ahead of them and a certain place in the F.A. Cup third qualifying round.

national against Ireland at Norwich tonight (Friday).

Mick Hollifield, dropped in favour of Tony Amos in the Blues' 1-0 win at Hayes on Monday night will be bidding to regain his place, although Amos' work rate at Church Road showed a marked improvement.

After the game there will be a players Disco at the Loakes Park clubhouse, starting at 8 p.m. Tickets 40p.

For the benefit of Wycombe's supporters it is advisable to get to the ground well before kick off time due to the small car parking facilities. The route to take is via Beaconsfield and Windsor. At Runnymede roundabout turn right on Staines Road to Staines Bridge roundabout and take last exit. The ground is in Charta Road.

One thing League champions Egham are confident about tomorrow's tie with Wycombe is that their ground record will be shattered. At the moment that record stands at 1,500. But Egham officials feel sure that Saturday's game will at least top the 2,000 mark.

Egham claimed a deserved share of the major honours last season, when they had one of their best ever years, winning the Spartan League championship with 48 points from 30 games, and being league cup semi-finalists.

They are managed by John Hould — an ex-professional with Southern League Guildford City.

VITAL GOAL

One player they are certainly missing is young striker Graham Carter, who scored the vital goal at Molesey to clinch the league title. He left Charta Road to join Isthmian's Woking in the close season. They also have two of last year's regular first teamers, Noel Shiels and Alan Mitchell, out of the side with bad injuries.

Egham's principal players are goalkeeper John Missen who joined from neighbours Feltham at start of last season, having previously played for Hounslow and Sutton.

Stan Lovell (full-back) left Windsor and Eton to join Egham two seasons ago and has represented the Spartan League.

Brother of former Wanderer Les, Jim Hastridge joined at start of last season after two years with Maidenhead United. He has also played for Slough and Windsor and is another Spartan League representative.

In midfield Paul Archer came from Hounslow at start of 1970-71 season after previous spell at Staines. He has alternated between defence and midfield, where he is equally valuable to the side.

Leading scorer last season was Brian Myers who came to Charta Road at the beginning of last season. Another forward, Terry McCormack, signed on at start of this season from Addlestone. He was formerly with Kingstonsian and Molesey and is the brother of former Woking forward John McCormack.

EGHAM DREAM

"This is the sort of game clubs like us dream about," says Egham's press officer Bob Bradley. "We were asked if we would like to transfer the game to Loakes Park. But we decided to keep faith with our fans."

"It is not every day you get a chance to play the Isthmian League champions on your own ground. Our players are determined to make sure Wycombe know they have been in a game. We have no illusions about the strength of Wycombe. But we are sure we will not be overrun."

Wanderers' opponents in the next round of the cup — Walton and Hersham or Leytonstone — meet on Tuesday at Leytonstone. Meanwhile in the league, Hendon entertain Bromley and Walton visit Ilford, who could do Wycombe quite a favour if they play as they did last week!

Egham (probable line-up): Missen; Lovell, Ellery, Bailey, Hastridge, Archer, McCormack, Stroud, Myers, Bending, Keele.